



## TROPICAL STORM EKEKA (01C)



Figure 3-01C-1. Ekeka a day before reaching its peak intensity while east of the international date line. Oahu appears at the top right (312001Z January GOES visual imagery courtesy of the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Honolulu, Hawaii).

After forming south of the Hawaiian Islands, Ekeka became a rare January central North Pacific hurricane which weakened and crossed into JTWC's area of responsibility. The tropical disturbance was initially detected by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center on 26 January, and the first warning was issued at 280600Z on Tropical Depression 01C, when it was 980 nm (1815 km) south of Oahu. On a track to the west-northwest, Ekeka intensified steadily over the next several days, reaching a peak intensity of 95 kt (50 m/sec) on 01 February. Then, the hurricane turned westward and began to accelerate as the subtropical ridge north of the system strengthened. Due to increased upper-level shear, Ekeka began to weaken, so that when the JTWC assumed warning responsibility at 040000Z, the maximum winds had dropped to 40 kt (20 m/sec). Within 12 hours, the tropical storm had further weakened to a tropical depression. Tropical Depression 01C continued to move westward in the deep easterly trade wind flow and passed through the Marshall Islands without causing any significant damage. After the tropical depression

passed over Chuuk (WMO 91334) where maximum winds of 17 kt (9 m/sec) were reported, JTWC issued the final warning at 081200Z. No reports of damage were received.